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necessary learning which the beginner finds in no text-book, and which he is usually left to pick up as best he may. The chapter on "How and Where to find the Law" is especially valuable to the student.

THE LAW OF WILLS. For Students. By Melville Madison Bigelow, Ph. D. Boston: Little, Brown & Company. 1898. pp. xxxii, 398, 12mo. Cloth, \$2.50 *net*; sheep, \$3.00 *net*.

Prof. Bigelow has been a successful author and editor of several well-known treatises familiar to practitioners, but to our mind his greatest accomplishment has been along the more difficult lines of preparing text-books for students. He possesses, in an unusual degree, the faculty of saying much in small space, and with a directness and accuracy which render his books peculiarly valuable for students. The present volume contains a masterly exposition of the law of Wills, arranged according to a logical and scientific conception of the subject. Practitioners will find it a valuable addition to their shelves.

HURST & BROWN'S ANNOTATED DIGEST OF THE VIRGINIA REPORTS. Volume II. Pulaski City, Va.: Hurst & Company. 1898.

In comparing the second volume of this much-needed digest with the first, one is struck with the marked improvement in the character of the typography and the paper. Another material improvement is the use of black-letter head-lines to the paragraphs. The absence of these head-lines was a serious defect in the first volume.

The general plan of the second volume is similar to that of the first, which has already been reviewed in these pages by Prof. C. A. Graves.

A digest of the Virginia reports has been so long needed, and the editors and publishers of this have shown such commendable enterprise in issuing it, that were the result less satisfactory than it is, we should not be disposed to criticise it severely. As it is, we believe the editors deserve the thanks of the bench and bar of the State.

We take the liberty, rather in the spirit of caution than of criticism, to suggest that some of the titles are both unusual and needlessly minute, and that the plan of the digest is a wide departure from that of other well-known digests, to which the profession has become accustomed. For example, such subjects as "Admissions" and "Confessions" are ordinarily sought under the general title of "Evidence"; "Cross Bills," to which six pages are devoted, under "Equity Practice"; "Commissions" (8 pp.) would be looked for under "Personal Representatives" or "Trustees"; "Continuance" (30 pp.) under "Practice." Under the unusual title "Compensation" (18 pp.) are included compensation for deficiency in real estate sold, as well as numerous paragraphs dealing with questions of evidence and of practice, the construction of contracts for the sale of real estate, compensation for nursing a decedent, etc., few of which one would expect to find under this title. Under the title "Death" one is disappointed not to find digested the cases involving the law of actions for wrongful death. The result of this will be that one who is familiar with the ordinary digests will find it difficult to use this one until he has learned by long practice where he is most likely to discover the desired subject.

We think the paragraphs might be shortened to advantage, and kindred deci-

sions brought more nearly together. As illustrating the pertinence of the latter suggestion, under the general title "Compensation," paragraphs 15, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28, 31, 33, 39, 41, 45, all deal with contracts of hazard, while the intervening paragraphs do not; 38 and 44 refer to measure of compensation where improvements have been made. Under "Constitutional Law," Nos. 17 and 18 refer to the "title of acts;" No. 19 to "taking private property without compensation;" Nos. 22 and 23 to "title of acts" again; then follow a number of paragraphs on other subjects, until No. 32 is reached, when again "title of acts" is the subject, as it is also of No. 39.

Another matter of minor importance is the custom of citing cases by the cumbersome and redundant appendages of "*et als.*," "executor," "*et ux.*," etc. Thus: *Jones et ux. v. Brown et als., Trustees*, or, to take an actual citation, at random (p. 145), *Bell et al., for &c. v. Farmville & Powhatan R. R. Co. et al.* Nor is there need of citing the Virginia Code of 1887 by chapters. The purpose of dividing the volume into sections, consecutively numbered, was to avoid the necessity of this.

As far as we have observed, the editors have been remarkably successful in the accurate statement of points decided, and their annotations are of great value. We hope the enterprise and faithfulness of the editors may meet with a hearty encouragement from the profession of the State.